

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 261149Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3288

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO SRI LANKA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL KOREA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, UN, US, BA

SUBJECT : MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REF : (A) STATE 178439 (B) MANAMA 978 (C) STATE 178439
(D) STATE 181897

1. EMBOFF HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEPT. OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAHMOOD BAHLOOL, JULY 22. BAHLOOL, IT WILL BE RECALLED (REF B), WILL LEAD THE BAHRAINI DELEGATION TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE NAC MEETING IN COLOMBO.

2. BAHLOOL LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO THE PRESENTATIONS ON BOTH PUERTO RICO AND KOREA (FOLLOWING PARAS 4A AND B, REF A). HE SEEMED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO OUR POSITION ON PUERTO RICO, THAT IT IS AN "INTERNAL MATTER" INAPPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION AT THE COLOMBO SUMMIT. WE REVIEWED THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO, THE APPARENT VIEWS OF ITS POPULATION AS EXPRESSED THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS, ETC.

3. ON KOREA, BAHLOOL WAS MUCH BETTER INFORMED SINCE HE REGULARLY MEETS WITH VISITING NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES.

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WE REVIEWED THE USG POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE

PARTIES CONCERNED, ABOUT THE POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS AND THE TIMING THEREOF. BAHLOOL, IN AN UNUSUALLY ASSERTIVE EXCEPTION TO HIS USUALLY SYMPATHETIC CLUCKING SOUNDS DURING SUCH PRESENTATIONS, DECLARED THAT BOTH THE USG AND THE ROK (WITH WHICH SAUDI ARABIA HAS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS) WOULD BE "FOOLISH" TO TRUST THE "PEACEFUL INTENTIONS" OF THE NORTH KOREANS OR, FOR THE MATTER, ANY COMMUNIST COUNTRY. REMOVAL OF TROOPS BEFORE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WOULD BE "UNWISE", HE THOUGHT. THEN HE ALLOWED AS TO HOW IT WOULD BE "UNWISE" EVEN AFTER AGREEMENT IS REACHED BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, SINCE WHO COULD TRUST THE NORTH TO LIVE UP TO ANY AGREEMENT? WHO INDEED.

4. BAHLOOL PROMISED TO CAREFULLY REPORT CONVERSATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO IS CONTINUALLY INVOLVED IN ARAB LEAGUE MANEUVERINGS REGARDING LEBANON ALTHOUGH NOW BY LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE RATHER THAN BY PERSONAL TRAVELLING. HE DID NOT RAISE MID-EAST SITUATION EXCEPT TO REPEAT THE KNEE-JERK SAUDIAN REGRET ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. HE DID NOT DISCUSS THE PANAMA CANAL AND NEITHER DID WE.

5. ON JULY 24, AMBASSADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSED BOTH ISSUES OF KOREA AND PUERTO RICO. FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMED HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY BAHLOOL ABOUT U.S. POSITION WITH WHICH HE WAS AT ANY RATE FAMILIAR.

6. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFS C AND D, AIDE MEMOIRES AND COPIES OF THE KOREAN SECTION OF THE SECRETARY'S JULY WW SPEECH WERE HAND-DELIVERED TO BAHLOOL ON JULY 26.

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